



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

20 WEST 40TH STREET

ROY WILKINS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10018

BRYANT 9-1400

HENRY LEE MOON

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

FOR RELEASE: UPON RECEIPT

July 29, 1967

END RIOTS NOW!  
4 LEADERS URGE

NEW YORK. — Pointing out that Negroes are "the primary victims of riots," four of the nation's top civil rights leaders have issued a strong call for an end to the ghetto violence which has erupted in cities throughout the country.

The statement, issued on Wednesday, July 26, was a joint appeal by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., president, Southern Christian Leadership Conference; A. Philip Randolph, president, A. Philip Randolph Institute; Roy Wilkins, executive director, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and Whitney M. Young, Jr., National League.

The complete text of the statement on violence in the cities follows:

Developments in Newark, Detroit and other strife-torn cities make it crystal clear that the primary victims of the riots are the Negro citizens. That they have grave grievances of long standing cannot be denied or minimized. That the riots have not contributed in any substantial measure to the eradication of these just complaints is by now obvious to all.

We are confident that the overwhelming majority of the Negro community joins us in opposition to violence in the streets. Who is without the necessities of life when the neighborhood stores are destroyed and looted? Whose children are without milk because deliveries cannot be made? Who loses wages because of a breakdown in transportation or destruction of the place of employment? Who are the dead, the injured and the imprisoned? It is the Negroes who pay and pay and pay, whether or not they are individually involved in the rioting. And for what?

Killing, arson, looting are criminal acts and should be dealt with as such. Equally guilty are those who incite, provoke and call specifically for such action. There is no injustice which justifies the present destruction of the Negro community and its people.

We who have fought so long and so hard to achieve justice for all Americans have consistently opposed violence as a means of redress. Riots have proved ineffective, disruptive and highly damaging to the Negro population, to the civil rights cause, and to the entire nation.

We call upon Negro citizens throughout the nation to forego the temptation to disregard the law. This does not mean that we should submit tamely to joblessness, inadequate housing, poor schooling, insult, humili-

ation and attack. It does require a redoubling of efforts through legitimate means to end these wrongs and disabilities.

We appeal not only to black Americans, but also to our fellow white citizens who are not blameless. The disabilities imposed upon Negro citizens are a century old. They remain because the white citizenry in general supports these restrictions.

The Ninetieth Congress has exhibited an incredible indifference to hardships of the ghetto dwellers. Only last week the House defeated a rat-control bill which would have enabled the cities to get rid of the rats which infest the slums.

And finally, we fully support President Johnson's call "upon all our people (black and white alike) in all our cities to join in a determined program to maintain law and order, to condemn and to combat lawlessness in all its forms, and firmly to show by word and by deed that riot, looting and public disorder will just not be tolerated."

No one benefits under mob law. Let's end it now!

NAACP DISPATCHES FUNDS  
FOR RELIEF OF STARVING  
NEGROES IN MISSISSIPPI

July 29, 1967

NEW YORK. — The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People this week sent funds to help provide food for starving Negroes in the Mississippi Delta region. The money will enable them to buy Federal food stamps.

In announcing the contribution, NAACP Executive Director Roy Wilkins said the dispatch of the check to Charles Evers, the Association's field director for Mississippi, was an initial step implementing an emergency resolution adopted at the NAACP's 58th annual convention held recently in Boston. Mr. Evers will direct the distribution of the funds to the needy.

Meanwhile the Association is organizing a committee to solicit funds from the membership and the public to provide food relief and medical aid for needy families in Mississippi pending effective Federal and state action to alleviate an acute situation.

The convention resolution calling for initiation of a crash relief program was adopted after the delegates heard a report on poverty in Mississippi made by a two-man team of veteran social workers who conducted an intensive two-week on-the-spot probe of conditions in the state. Alex Waites and Rollie Eubanks, officers of the NAACP branch in the New York City Department of Welfare, reported that conditions in the 12 counties they visited were such as to warrant designating them as "a disaster area" by President Lyndon B. Johnson.